

N E W S R E L E A S E

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California unemployment rate holds steady at 6.2 percent

SACRAMENTO – The number of Californians holding jobs in April increased by 53,000 from March, while the unemployment rate held steady at 6.2 percent, unchanged from March, according to the state Employment Development Department (EDD).

A year ago, in April 2007, California's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent.

California's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 800 jobs over the month, for a total of 15,162,300, according to EDD's monthly survey of employers.

The number of Californians holding jobs in April was 17,247,000, an increase of 53,000 over the month, as noted above, and an increase of 54,000 from April of last year, according to the separate survey of households.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,137,000, down 1,000 over the month, but up 192,000 compared with April of last year.

Of the unemployed, 481,600 were laid off, 120,700 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market, or persons who completed temporary jobs.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 492,000 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the April survey week. This compares with 518,438 in March and 399,197 in April 2007. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 52,316 in April 2008, compared with 48,282 in March and 43,129 in April of last year.

(more)

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 15,162,300 in April, a net loss of 800 jobs since the March survey. This followed a loss of 2,100 jobs (as revised) in March.

Four of the categories (**natural resources and mining; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; and government**) added jobs over the month, gaining 11,200 jobs. Government showed the largest gain, up by 5,400 jobs. Seven categories (**construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; information; financial activities; professional and business services; and other services**) reported job declines this month, down 12,000 jobs. Construction posted the largest decline over the month, down by 4,100 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (April 2007 to April 2008), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 23,400 jobs (up 0.2 percent).

Eight industry divisions (**natural resources and mining; trade, transportation and utilities; information; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) posted job gains over the year, adding 162,200 jobs. Educational and health services showed the strongest gain on both a numerical and percentage of growth basis, adding 54,800 jobs (a 3.3 percent increase).

Three categories (**construction; manufacturing; and financial activities**) posted job declines over the year, down 138,800 jobs. Construction employment showed the largest decline on both a numerical and percentage basis, down by 81,700 jobs (a decline of 9.0 percent).

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (**NOT** SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Over the month, employment in **leisure and hospitality** recorded the largest non-seasonally adjusted gain, up by 16,800 jobs, including 10,400 in accommodation and food service. **Information** recorded the greatest non-seasonally adjusted monthly loss, down by 3,400 jobs. The largest loss in that sector was 1,400 jobs in motion picture and sound recording.

Educational and health services posted the biggest non-seasonally adjusted gain over the year, up 56,600. The largest increase in that sector was in health care and social assistance, up 43,000 jobs. The largest decrease over the year was in **construction**, which was down by 80,600 jobs, including a 60,300 job loss for specialty trade contractors.

NOTE TO EDITORS: *EDD encourages those who are filing for unemployment insurance benefits to do so on-line through our Web site at www.edd.ca.gov. On-line claim filing is the fastest, most convenient way to apply for unemployment benefits, and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	April 2008 (prelim.)	March 2008 (revised)	April 2007	Change Over 12 months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	15,162.3	15,163.1	15,138.9	0.2
Natural resources and mining	26.8	26.1	26.0	3.1
Construction	825.0	829.1	906.7	-9.0
Manufacturing	1,445.3	1,447.9	1,466.2	-1.4
Trade, transportation and utilities	2,909.1	2,909.4	2,908.5	0.0
Information	465.1	468.5	464.8	0.1
Financial activities	879.4	879.5	915.6	-4.0
Professional and business services	2,284.6	2,286.0	2,253.6	1.4
Educational and health services	1,705.2	1,703.4	1,650.4	3.3
Leisure and hospitality	1,570.8	1,567.5	1,551.0	1.3
Other services	515.8	515.9	509.1	1.3
Government*	2,535.2	2,529.8	2,487.0	1.9
Agriculture	386.4	390.7	380.3	1.6

*Includes all civilian employees of federal, state, and local governments.

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

	April 2008 (prelim.)	March 2008 (revised)	February 2008	April 2007
Civilian labor force ^a	18,384,000	18,332,000	18,266,000	18,138,000
Total civilian employment	17,247,000	17,194,000	17,217,000	17,193,000
Unemployment	1,137,000	1,138,000	1,049,000	945,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	6.2	6.2	5.7	5.2
US seasonally adjusted rate %	5.0	5.1	4.8	4.5

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	April 2008 (prelim.)	March 2008 (revised)	February 2008	April 2007
Civilian labor force ^a	18,301,000	18,303,000	18,233,000	18,026,000
Total civilian employment	17,188,000	17,122,000	17,118,000	17,120,000
Unemployment	1,113,000	1,181,000	1,115,000	906,000
Unadjusted rate %	6.1	6.5	6.1	5.0

^aLabor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES
APRIL 2008 (Preliminary); 2007 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	18,301,000	17,187,900	1,113,100	6.1%
ALAMEDA	755,500	715,900	39,600	5.2%
ALPINE	530	490	40	7.6%
AMADOR	18,330	17,040	1,290	7.0%
BUTTE	106,500	98,600	7,900	7.4%
CALAVERAS	21,430	19,800	1,630	7.6%
COLUSA	10,610	9,330	1,280	12.1%
CONTRA COSTA	526,700	498,700	28,000	5.3%
DEL NORTE	11,390	10,490	900	7.9%
EL DORADO	95,300	89,500	5,800	6.1%
FRESNO	439,500	395,700	43,800	10.0%
GLENN	12,670	11,480	1,190	9.4%
HUMBOLDT	61,200	57,200	4,000	6.5%
IMPERIAL	68,400	55,800	12,600	18.4%
INYO	9,330	8,790	540	5.8%
KERN	357,100	322,600	34,500	9.7%
KINGS	59,600	53,500	6,100	10.2%
LAKE	25,860	23,420	2,440	9.4%
LASSEN	12,980	11,750	1,230	9.5%
LOS ANGELES	4,944,400	4,662,400	282,000	5.7%
MADERA	64,200	58,000	6,200	9.6%
MARIN	138,000	132,600	5,400	3.9%
MARIPOSA	8,860	8,190	670	7.6%
MENDOCINO	43,940	41,050	2,890	6.6%
MERCED	105,300	92,300	13,000	12.3%
MODOC	3,950	3,550	400	10.2%
MONO	7,740	7,360	380	4.9%
MONTEREY	214,400	197,400	17,000	7.9%
NAPA	74,900	71,600	3,300	4.4%
NEVADA	50,580	47,550	3,030	6.0%
ORANGE	1,628,400	1,557,500	70,900	4.4%
PLACER	175,800	165,900	9,900	5.6%
PLUMAS	10,840	9,660	1,180	10.9%
RIVERSIDE	912,100	847,300	64,800	7.1%
SACRAMENTO	695,200	653,000	42,200	6.1%
SAN BENITO	25,900	23,400	2,500	9.8%
SAN BERNARDINO	887,100	828,800	58,300	6.6%
SAN DIEGO	1,548,100	1,470,600	77,500	5.0%
SAN FRANCISCO	439,100	419,400	19,700	4.5%
SAN JOAQUIN	299,400	270,700	28,700	9.6%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	138,300	131,600	6,700	4.8%
SAN MATEO	384,500	369,200	15,300	4.0%
SANTA BARBARA	220,100	210,000	10,100	4.6%
SANTA CLARA	863,700	820,000	43,700	5.1%
SANTA CRUZ	150,900	140,000	10,900	7.2%
SHASTA	86,500	78,600	7,900	9.2%
SIERRA	1,630	1,440	190	11.8%
SISKIYOU	19,280	17,420	1,860	9.6%
SOLANO	211,600	198,800	12,800	6.0%
SONOMA	265,600	252,600	13,000	4.9%
STANISLAUS	233,800	208,800	25,000	10.7%
SUTTER	42,600	37,300	5,300	12.3%
TEHAMA	25,460	23,280	2,180	8.6%
TRINITY	5,170	4,510	660	12.8%
TULARE	199,000	178,400	20,600	10.3%
TUOLUMNE	26,200	24,210	1,990	7.6%
VENTURA	430,300	408,000	22,300	5.2%
YOLO	97,500	91,000	6,500	6.7%
YUBA	27,600	24,600	3,000	11.0%